Andrei Shved

Internatsiyanalnaya Str.22

220030 Mink

**BELARUS**

Dear Prosecutor General

Opposition leader Maria Kolesnikova has been detained since September 7, 2020. She was sentenced to eleven years in prison on 6 September 2021 on trumped-up «charges of extremism», «attempted seizure of power» and «incitement to acts endangering the state».

She is imprisoned in the penal colony N4 for women in Homiel.

Her health is deteriorating. In November 2022 she had an emergency operation at Homiel Hospital and on January 10, 2023, she was forced by the prison administration to return to work in a garment factory.

Since mid-February 2023, she is not allowed to have any contact with her family nor a lawyer.

Dear Prosecutor General, please release Maria Kolesnikova immediately and unconditionally.

Make sure that she is not further abused and that she can make contact with the outside world. She must also be provided with adequate health care. Maria Kolesnikova must be given a fair trial regarding her allegations of ill-treatment, detention and prosecution.

Yours sincerely